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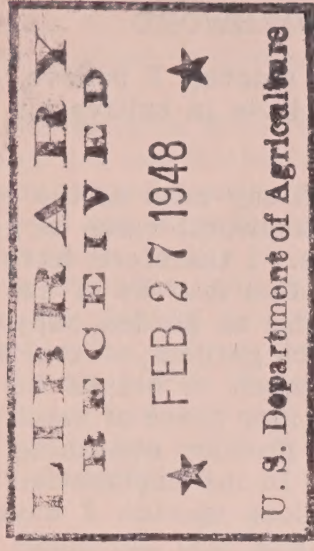
## DELPHINIUM

### SPECIALTIES

Delphinium Species gathered from the world field. Both seeds and plants imported from the most outstanding growers both at home and abroad on best species, varieties.

To:

United States Dept. of Agriculture  
Library Dept.  
Washington, D. C.



SWARTZ · *Flower Grower*

1049 EASTLAND AVE. · AKRON 5, OHIO

## FOREWORD

Delphinium Species number, I believe, over 300, of which we in America have in cultivation not a dozen species.

Many of, or I might say most of the species would not prove of any horticultural value as garden plants or for the florist trade. I therefore, have chosen only those species which I feel may be of use to lovers of this delightful perennial as garden subjects, some of the dwarf types for rock gardens, several species which I feel are of most interest to florists for cut flowers, and also species which may prove of value to those who love to hybridize to produce something new in the realm of floriculture. In my explanation of the characteristics of the various species, I have used Prof. Bailey's Hortus 2nd and also his latest book, "The Garden Of Larkspurs," where I did not have personal experience with a particular species. In the event that a plant does not come up to the standard for the variety, one must take into consideration environment, and many other factors which affect growth. For instance, a certain plant may attain the height of five feet in parts of Europe, whereas in certain parts of America it will not grow over three feet. I will be constantly in search of new and interesting species from the world field, but there will be times when even with our fast mode of transportation I will run short of hard to get varieties, for several of them come from far off Asia and Africa in the higher regions where cool temperatures prevail. If I have something new to bring out in mid-year, I shall attach a supplement to this catalogue. And last but not least, if you are really interested in the Delphinium as one of, if not the most beautiful of border perennials, and would like to see it become widespread as in England where it has been so successfully propagated, join the "American Delphinium Society." Address Mr. Carl Grant Wilson, 22150 Euclid Ave., Euclid, Ohio, secretary and treasurer. The fee is \$2.00 a year, and this covers beautiful Year-Book and several bulletins during the year on all phases of culture.

## CULTURE NOTES

**SEEDING**—Where a packet or more is to be planted, nothing comes in handier than a florist's flat, say about 15 by 20 by 4 inches deep. This gives enough space to plant about a packet of three hundred seed. The best time for planting seeds of Delphinium is in the early spring, say March or April in the northern states, when the use of a hot bed or cold frame is available, or one may start the seed in the house or other building where temperatures are around 70 and lighting conditions are proper. The seed may be sown directly in an outdoor seedbed if one takes care to protect same from flooding rains and give proper protection when seedlings come up. I have found the use of a hot bed with bottom heat from electric cable to give very best results for raising early plants which bloom profusely in the fall or summer, but many do not have these advantages.

For soil to plant in, I prefer a sandy loam, but if the soil is of a heavy texture, I add about  $\frac{1}{3}$  sand to give good drainage and aeration. Prepare the surface well and if using a flat or other container of similar nature, lay out rows about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. deep and 2 in. apart, sow seed about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart and sift mixture of sand and soil over seed and press into contact with seed. Seedbed is ready to be watered by either a fine spray until thoroughly soaked, or in the case of a flat, one

may water from the bottom by placing same in tray of water until surface is moist.

Seed may also be sown with success in the late summer, about Aug. 1st and the seedlings may be wintered over in the cold frame or some other protection. Some growers sow seed out in well prepared seedbed in late fall or in November before the ground freezes. The seed remaining dormant until early spring when they spring to life and produce nice early and robust plants. When planting at this time of the year one should have the seedbed raised above the surrounding terrain to give good drainage and it is well to cover seedbed with a mulch of long straw and a hotbed sash placed over the top gives good results.

The most necessary requirements for satisfactory germination is to keep well watered but not soaked, provide proper drainage, and plant the best seed obtainable.

You may cover the seedbed with burlap before watering surface and leave on for about a week or ten days, but be sure to remove it when seedlings appear. To prevent (Damping Off) dust each packet of seed with either Semesan or Red Copper Oxide, a pinch to a packet. One may also use the above one and one-half tablespoons to a gal. water to spray seedbed if afraid of this fungus which takes millions of plants each year. Seed should be kept in tightly closed containers in refrigerator until used.

**CULTIVATING & FEEDING:** Delphinium do well in most soils if a medium fertility exists, and it is well drained. It is a great advantage if the soil is worked deeply and some rotted manure has been incorporated with the lower soil to provide fertility and also as added humus as it retains moisture well and makes heavy soil much easier to work. After seedling plants are set one may give a light sprinkling of lime and a balanced fertilizer, say a tablespoon to each plant. As Delphinium use large quantities of moisture it is an advantage if one can keep the plants from suffering from drought during hot summer months by flooding the bed rather than just sprinkling surface, as the plants must never be set back by dry spells or you may not expect the best flower heads. The plants should be spaced about two feet apart or more to give good results. I prefer to use organic fertilizer well incorporated with the soil by composting manure and garden waste. I believe soil of about 7.5 ph. or a little on the alkaline side is preferable to a slightly acid condition. In closing, will add that if one has any rough material as coarse straw, or leaves for a mulch, or even sawdust has been tried by some to conserve moisture, and it cuts down the work of cultivating.

**BLACKMORE & LANGDON.** Gold Medal strain of the Elatum Species, which had quite a part in the present strains of hybrids in America. The only Delphinium in England which received 16 Gold medal awards from the Royal Horticultural Society, of Great Britain. This strain has been in the making for over fifty years and this seed is taken from over fifty named varieties which sell in England for from a half dollar to three dollars a plant.

This strain takes in all the shades of blue from the lightest silvery blue to the dark blue, violet, purple, and includes mauves and pink shades. The florets are mostly semi double with some doubles and singles with

contrasting bee's of black, white, brown, black and gold and striped, the flowers are of large size, up to three inches and more and the plants have been bred for graceful shape with strong whippy stems and for resistance to mildew, many are mildew free.

These plants grow from five feet to seven feet or more tall, according to culture, and I truly believe this strain to be one of the very best in cultivation today as the British are sticklers for details when it comes to plant breeding, especially Delphinium.

Imported Seed \$1.00 Packet of about 300 seeds.

or \$3.50 per  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz.

Plants \$3.00 per doz. seedlings mixed shades.

**WATKIN SAMUEL'S WREXHAM STRAIN.** Imported from probably the largest grower in Britain. This is also of the Elatum Species and is generally referred to as the Hollyhock flowered which is somewhat degrading for this beauty of the Delphinium family. These plants attain a height of five to seven feet or more and are very graceful in form, but the flower spike is heavier and tapers from a broad base to a point, and is referred to as pyramidal. The florets generally start lower and stand out from the stalk at the base to give the spike a width of sometimes close to a foot at base. This seed is taken from named varieties of the finest to be had anywhere, and comes in all the range of shades of blue with contrasting bee's of white, purple and black and the flowers come both single and double. This seed comes from the best source I know of and I believe a thrill awaits any one who has never seen this husky beauty.

Seed \$ .50 per packet about 300 seeds.

\$2.00 per  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz.

\$2.50 per doz. seedlings.

#### NOTE

Where the term seedling is mentioned, I am referring to transplanted plants that are from two months to about four months old, which will bloom the first season.

#### RECENT INTRODUCTIONS

**LANCELOT.** A clear lilac with white bee. A rare color in delphinium and one of the most beautiful.

It has well balanced spikes and carries large flowers of fine round form.

**GUINEVERE SERIES.** A clear, pink-lavender self, with white bee, with very large individual flowers averaging up to 3 inches in diameter. This is a true exhibition type and a beautiful garden plant.

**CAMELIARD SERIES.** A clear lavender self with black bee, possessing classical perfection of form of the individual flowers, which are very round and attain very large size, averaging 3 inches in diameter.

Nicely balanced spikes, combined with excellent growing habits.

**KING ARTHUR SERIES.** One of the most brilliant Delphiniums. Florets of royal purple with large white bee.

**BLACK NIGHT SERIES.** The darkest violet with a black bee, plant and flowers of nice form.

### BLUE SERIES

**SUMMER SKIES.** Light heavenly blue flowers with contrasting white bee, comes nearly 100% true from seed.

**BLUE BIRD SERIES.** A true blue in Delphiniums and perhaps the brightest and hardest to produce. Has white bee, large flowers on whippy stems.

**BLUEJAY SERIES.** This series comes in medium to dark shades of blue with dark bee.

### WHITE INTRODUCTIONS

**PERCIVAL SERIES.** This series produces pure white flowers with contrasting black bee, unusual.

**GALAHAD SERIES.** This pure white variety was hard to produce. It lends itself well mingled with blue shades.

**THE ABOVE 10 VARIETIES ARE FROM VETTERLE AND REINELT'S ARTIFICIALLY POLLINATED SEEDS.** Plants in this group come better than 75% true from seed. **PLANTS**, \$3.00 per doz. **SEEDS**, \$1.25 pkt., 6 for \$6.00—200 seeds per pkt.

Jack Offerman's Exhibition Strain of plants of mixed shades, and I believe these to be hard to beat from any angle. I am offering these select seedlings for \$3.00 per doz. east of the Mississippi only.

Mrs. Lyondel's Strain. I have a few plants of mixed shades to offer. These are too well known to need further explanation. \$3.00 per doz.

### SPECIES

Belladonna, Cliveden Beauty. Grows to about three feet, has turquoise blue flowers with white center and blooms well over long period. \$0.25 pkt.,  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. \$1.00.

Belladonna, Blackmore and Langdon Imported seeds. Light blue flowers of the best strain. Seeds \$0.25 packet, 5 for \$1.00.

Bellamosum, Lamartine. Deep Gentian blue florets Bellamosum, Improved. Bright blue, nice cut flower. \$0.25 pkt.,  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. \$0.75.

D. Chinense, or Chinese. Comes in blue or white, grows anywhere, two feet tall or over, flowers over long period. Seeds \$0.25 pkt.,  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. \$0.75.

D. Chinense, Dwarf varieties.

Azure Fairy, light blue, to 1 foot tall.

Chinese Blue Mirror. Med. blue, one foot.

Chinese Blue Butterfly. Bright blue. Rock garden.

Chinese White. Large white flowers. Seeds \$0.25 pkt.,  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz., \$0.75.

**D. Cardinale.** Also called Scarlet Larkspur. This plant is native to California, grows to three feet or more tall, bears scarlet flowers, will prove useful for hybridizing. Seeds \$0.25 pkt.,  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. \$1.00.

**D. Nudicaule.** This plant grows to two feet or over and comes in shades of red through lighter shades of yellow. Useful for hybridizing with other species. Seeds \$0.25 pkt., 5 pkts. \$1.00, either Reds, Lemon Gem, or Chamois. Short supply on the red shades.

**D. Macrocentron.** Native to east Africa, in the higher regions. Grows to about 3 ft. and bears unusually shaped and colored flowers of purplish yellow-green blend. Worth a trial. \$0.35 pkt., 3 for \$0.90.

**D. Tatsienense.** Similar to *D. Grandiflorum*, grows over two feet tall and bears many bright blue flowers over a long period. Seeds, \$0.25 pkt.

**D. Wellbyi.** This is native to east Africa where it grows wild at 8,000 feet altitude. The grower says this plant has very beautiful large light blue flowers and grows to five feet. It is a tender perennial and goes dormant after blooming. Seeds, \$0.25 pkt.

#### NOTE

The following list of *Delphinium* species comes to me in small quantities mostly and have had much handling, thus I cannot guarantee them all to germinate as well as home grown seeds. I find in testing some of them that they may take up to a month or even more to come up, so keep seedbed moist continuously.

*D. Altissimum*, Hymalayas, blue to purple, 3 ft.

*Azureum*, Northern Rockies, Branching, L. Blue, 18 in.

*Atropurpureum*, Dark purple, *Elatum* species, 5 ft.

*Amoenum*, Siberia, Erect, 2 ft. Blue, Straight spur.

*Belladonna*, Original, or *Cheilanthemum*, Siberia.

*Bulleyanum*, 3 to 4 ft., Deep blue, China.

*Brunonianum*, to 1 ft., Lg. pale blue, musk odor.

*Bicolor*, 6 to 20 in., Purple to lavender, U. S.

*Caucasicum*, 4 in. or more tall, light blue, W. eye.

*Cashmirianum*, 18 in. Hymalayas, light blue.

*Cuneatum*, Siberia, *Belladonna* type.

*Californicum*, 6 ft. purple and white, Calif.

*Cultorum*, see *Hybridum*.

*Cinereum*, Asia Minor.

*Consolida*, or *D. Ajacis*, an annual, blue, white.

*Cheilanthum*, see *Belladonna*.

*Decorum*, 2 ft. Calif. Purplish Blue flowers.

*Duhmbergi*, 2 ft. Russia, Siberia, Blue, White.

*Dyctiocarpum*, 2 ft. Siberia, Blue.

*Denudatum*, Hymalayas.

*Elatum*, Variety *Alpinum*, Europe, 3 ft.

*Elatum*, Siberia.

*Exaltatum*, 5 ft. Purple, U. S.

Formosum, Cheilanthum, Siberia.  
 Formosu, Variety Coelestinum, Siberia.  
 Flexuosum, Caucasus Mountains.  
 Geyeri, 18 inches, Blue and white, U. S.  
 Grandiflorum, Siberia.  
 Gayanum, Like D. Ajacis, Annual.  
 Hesperium.  
 Hybridum, possibly of the Elatum group.  
 Laxiflorum, 1 ft. L. blue, Altai Mts.  
 Maakianum, of the Elatums, Siberia.  
 Menziessi.  
 Occidentalis.  
 Oxyspalum, 2 ft. drooping large flowers, Europe.  
 Palmatum, Elatum group.  
 Pylzowii, 9 inches, many violet flowers, China.  
 Przewalskii, One foot, blue and yellow, Mongolia.  
 Requierii, 2 ft., Biennial, Staphisagria group.  
 Staphisagria, 3 ft., Biennial, Reddish purple.  
 Scopulorum, 3 ft. blue, purple, U. S.  
 Scopulorum, sub Alpinum variety, Europe.  
 Sulphureum, or Zalil, yellow, Persia, Scarce.  
 Scabrifolium.  
 Speciosum, see Caucasicum, Caucasus Mts.  
 Trollifolium, 1 ft. D. blue, W. eyed, Calif.  
 Turkestanicum, Turkestan.  
 Tricolor.  
 Triste, 3 ft. Brownish purple, Siberia.  
 Tatsienense, Two feet, many blue flowers, China.  
 Tirolense, Blue florets on dwarf plant, Tyrol.  
 Vestitum, 4 ft. Violet, white eyed, Himalayas.  
 Vitifolium.  
 Yunnanense, 3 ft. Deep blue, Yunnan, China.

Seeds on above species, \$0.20 pkt., 6 for \$1.00, about  
 25 seeds to packet.

#### CONDITIONS OF SALE

Safe arrival of both seeds and plants guaranteed.  
 Seeds being sent postage paid, plants will be sent  
 either express or mail, charges to be remitted with  
 order at the rate of 10% of order. Payment may be  
 made by Money Order, Check or if Cash is sent, it  
 should be registered.

I would rather not ship plants west of Mississippi  
 River, and would appreciate right to make reasonable  
 substitutes in plants and seeds.

Minimum order accepted on seeds is One Dollar and  
 on Plants is One Dozen.

Plants will be shipped in May or June and again in  
 August or September.

A TRIAL ORDER SOLICITED

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH AND  
 AMERICAN DELPHINIUM SOCIETIES

